

■■ Position Paper for Nigeria

Committee: UNESCO

Country: Federal Republic of Nigeria

Agenda: Preserving Cultural Integrity and Personal Privacy in the Age of Social Media

Introduction

The Federal Republic of Nigeria recognizes the positive role of social media in connecting people, spreading information, and giving young people a voice. However, Nigeria is deeply concerned about the growing risks posed by social media, including the loss of cultural values, spread of misinformation, and threats to personal privacy. Nigeria believes that UNESCO has a vital role in guiding nations to balance the benefits of digital technology with the protection of culture and individual rights.

Background of the Issue

Across the world, social media has changed the way people communicate, but it has also weakened traditional cultures and made personal data more vulnerable. In Africa, where traditions and community identity are strong, there is a need to ensure that technology does not erase cultural integrity. Additionally, weak regulations often expose citizens to online harassment, identity theft, and misuse of personal information.

Nigeria's Past Actions

Nigeria has taken important steps to address these challenges. The Nigerian government launched the *National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy* to promote safe and responsible use of technology. Nigeria also introduced the *Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR)* to safeguard personal data and encourage accountability by social media companies. Furthermore, Nigeria supports cultural education in schools and promotes Nollywood, music, and traditional art as tools to preserve national culture even in the digital space.

Nigeria's Position and Proposals

Nigeria believes that global cooperation through UNESCO is essential to protect both cultural integrity and privacy in the digital era. Nigeria proposes the following measures:

- 1. Digital Literacy Programs** – UNESCO should help member states educate youth on responsible social media use and awareness about privacy rights.
- 2. Protection of Cultural Content** – Develop international guidelines to prevent cultural symbols, languages, and traditions from being misrepresented or misused online.
- 3. Stronger Privacy Standards** – Encourage social media companies to respect data protection laws of each country and introduce stricter safeguards for user privacy.
- 4. Promoting Local Culture Online** – Support initiatives for African films, art, music, and literature on digital platforms to preserve and share culture globally.
- 5. International Cooperation** – Create a UNESCO forum where countries can share best practices on balancing free expression, cultural protection, and personal privacy.

Conclusion

Nigeria firmly believes that the digital age should not come at the cost of cultural identity or personal privacy. Through education, regulation, and cooperation, UNESCO member states can ensure that social media becomes a tool for cultural exchange and empowerment, rather than a threat. Nigeria stands ready to work with all nations to achieve this balance.